

Missouri Sunshine Law

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Agenda

What is the Sunshine Law?

Who must abide by Sunshine Law?

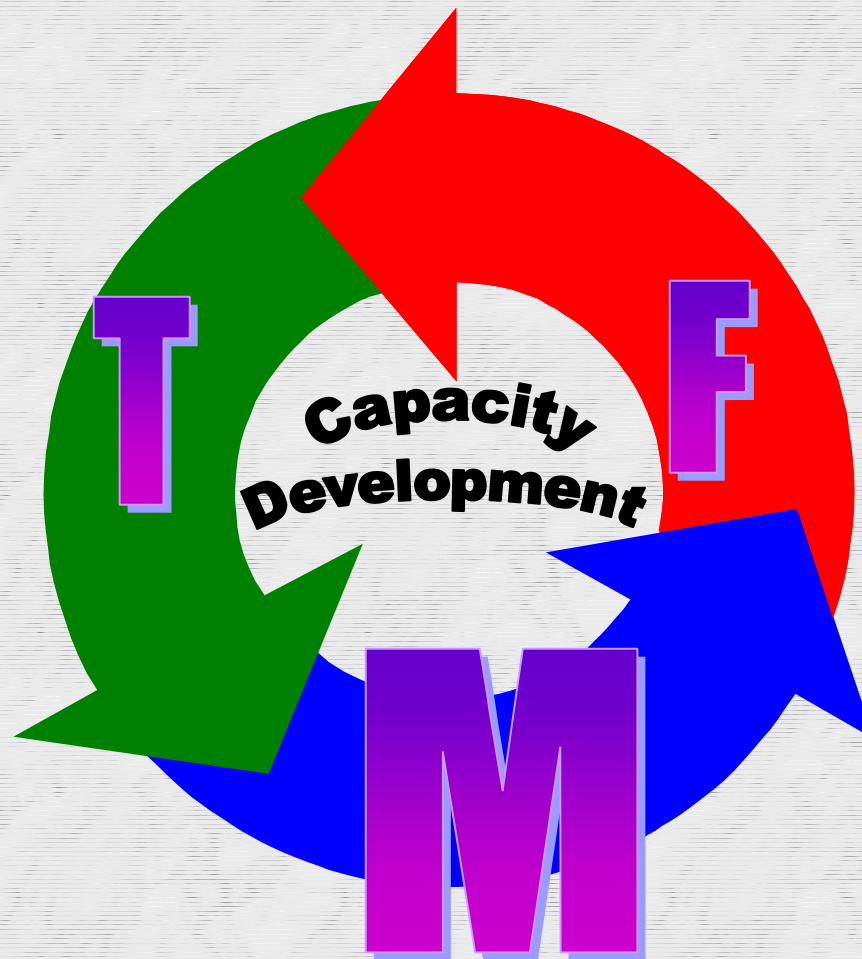
What is a public meeting?

What is a public record?

Are there exceptions?

How is the Sunshine Law enforced?

TMF Watch



EMI



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Policy Behind Missouri's Sunshine Law

Public Policy

- **Meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of public governmental bodies must be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law**

Fundamental Policy

- **Foster openness in government**

Public Governmental Bodies

**Any legislative, administrative
governmental entity created by the
constitution or statutes of Missouri**

Quasi-governmental bodies

Public Meetings

What is a public meeting?

- Any meeting of a public governmental body whether corporeal or by means of communication equipment
- Luncheon meetings
- Informal meetings, without intent to avoid the Sunshine Law, do not constitute a public meeting

Notice of Public Meetings

Notice must include:

- Time, date and place of the meeting
- A tentative agenda

Must be disseminated “in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public”

Posted at least 24 hours prior to meeting time

Legislative changes

Closed Meeting Exceptions

Legal actions

Certain real estate transactions

Other specific circumstances

Closed Meeting Exceptions (continued)

Legislative changes

- **Opens most settlements**
- **Votes in closed session must be roll called and disclosed**
- **Cannot close more space than is needed to conduct session**

Public Records

What is a public record?

Public records are open to the public unless exempt.

Presumed open to public inspection unless they contain information which fits into an exemption.

- **Examples: security systems and personal information (SSN, credit card #s)**

Public Records (continued)

Custodian of records

- **designated in writing**

Procedure for obtaining access

- **requested by letter, e-mail or phone**

Charges for producing copies of records

- **certification of costs**

Enforcement

Who may bring legal action?

Limitations period

Penalties available

Recovery of Attorney's fees

Questions?

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